

Applicant : Gregory D. Aviza et al.
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Filed : February 9, 2004
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Attorney's Docket No.: Z-03430 / Case 8107

REMARKS

Claim 16 has been amended to require that each razor blade comprise an elongated cutting member and an elongated support extending along the length of the cutting member and attached to the cutting member. Claim 16 has also been amended to require that the supports have first and second ends and that the ends of the supports be connected to each other. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 16-20, and in figures 3-8.

Claims 16-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, and Claims 16-24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 26 has been cancelled. The Office Action states that "the limitation requiring 'leaving said razor blades over said extents between said first and second longitudinal ends devoid of connections between adjacent razor so that adjacent razor blades are secured only at said first and second longitudinal ends' constitutes new matter and renders the claim indefinite. While the Applicant does not agree with this rejection, claim 16 has been amended deleting the rejected language in order to speed prosecution. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Claims 16-21, 23, 24, and 26 have been rejected as anticipated by Gooding (US 4,200,976), claims 20 and 23 have been rejected as obvious over Gooding, and claim 21 has been rejected as obvious over Gooding in view of Shurland.

With respect to the anticipation and obvious rejections based solely on Gooding, Gooding clearly does not provide a razor blade comprised of an elongated cutting member and an elongated support extending along a length of the cutting member and attached to the cutting member. In contrast, Gooding has a transversely extending blade carrier 11 to which each blade is attached. Thus, Gooding fails to anticipate or render obvious independent claim 16. Since claims 17-21, 23 and 24 all depend from claim 16, they are likewise not anticipated or render obvious by Gooding for the same reasons as claim 16.

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Combining the clips of Shurland with the structure of Gooding does not establish a prima facie case of obviousness because it does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations of independent claim 16, from which claim 21 depends indirectly. As such, claim 21 is patentable over the combination of Gooding and Shurland. Therefore, withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

It is believed that no fees are due with this submission. In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

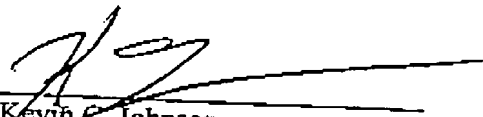
This response represents an earnest effort to place the application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of claims 16-25 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

The Gillette Company

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